

a detecting means for scanning said bar code indicia such that detecting means is for detecting the expiration date of said bar code indicia; and

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a signaling means being operationally coupled to said detecting means, said signaling means being for signaling to a potential buyer that the expiration date of the product occurred before a date of detection of said bar code indicia.

11. A bar code indicia system for signaling when an expiration date of a product has passed, said bar code indicia system comprising:

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a detecting means for scanning a bar code indicia, said bar code indicia being readable after the expiration date of the product; and

a signaling means being operationally coupled to said detecting means, said signaling means being for signaling to a potential buyer that the expiration date of the product occurred before a date of detection of said bar code indicia.

13. The bar code indicia system of claim 12, wherein said processor is adapted to compare a date of detection of the bar code indicia to the expiration date of the product represented by the bar code indicia and to cause said signaling means to signal to the buyer when the expiration date is before the date of detection.

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15. System for signaling that a product expiration date has passed, said bar code indicia system comprising:

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a bar code indicia being readable after the expiration date of the product, said bar code indicia comprising;

a substrate, said substrate having a top surface, wherein said substrate comprises a label having a bottom surface with an adhesive applied thereon for attachment to the product;

a plurality of bars being marked on said top surface of said substrate, each of said bars being arranged on said substrate in a manner indicating a particular expiration date of the product, each of said bars being orientated parallel to each other;

a detecting means for detecting said bar code indicia, said detecting means comprising;

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a scanner being adapted for scanning bar code indicia, said scanner being mounted under a counter having an upper surface for holding the products to be scanned; and

a processor being coupled to said scanner, said processor being adapted for comparing the current date to the expiration date of the product and signaling to the consumer that the expiration date on the product has passed;

a signaling means for signaling when the expiration date of the product has passed, said signaling means being coupled to said processor, said signaling means comprising a light being mounted on the upper surface of the counter, wherein the consumer may see said light illuminate when the product passed over the scanner has expired.
